

# Wutung language

**Wutung** (Udung) is a Skou language of Papua New Guinea. It is spoken in the villages of Wutung (2.60857°S 141.010203°E) and Sangke in Bewani-Wutung Onei Rural LLG of Sandaun Province.<sup>[3][4]</sup> The two varieties are sometimes considered separate languages.

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## Location

The village is in Sandaun Province, on the northern coast and adjacent to the border with Indonesia. There are about 500 living in Wutung village, most of whom speak Wutung.

The nearby villages of Musu (12 km east on the coast) and Nyao Kono (about 12 km due south) have closely related languages which are named after their villages (Musu and Nyao). These three speech varieties are very closely related and are mutually intelligible.

## Phonology

Wutung has fifteen consonants and seven vowels, six of which have nasal variants. This gives a total of 28 phonemes. Wutung also makes suprasegmental distinctions in tone.

### Consonants

Wutung is one of the very few languages that lack dorsal consonants.

Wutung	
Sangke	
<b>Native to</b>	Papua New Guinea
<b>Region</b>	Sandaun Province
<b>Native speakers</b>	900 (2003) <sup>[1]</sup>
<b>Language family</b>	Skou <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Western<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Wutung</b></li></ul></li></ul>
<b>Dialects</b>	Wutung <div>Sangke (Nyao)</div>
Language codes	
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	wut
<b>Glottolog</b>	wutu1244 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/wutu1244</span> ) <sup>[2]</sup>
Coordinates: 2.60857°S 141.010203°E	

		<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Plosive</u> or <u>Affricate</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	p	t	tʃ	ʔ
	<u>voiced</u>	b	d	dʒ	
<u>Nasal</u>		m	n	ɲ	
<u>Fricative</u>		f	s		h
<u>Approximant</u>		w	l		

## Vowels

Wutung has thirteen vowels, which includes seven oral and six nasal vowels. The table below shows the oral vowels. Each of these vowels, apart from the close-mid vowel **ur** /ə/, has an equivalent nasal vowel. The nasal vowels are indicated using the same symbol as the equivalent oral, but with a following *ng*, e.g. **ca**, 'pig' vs. **cang** 'blossom', the latter having the nasal vowel.

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close</u>	i /i/		u /u/
<u>Mid</u>	ey /e/	ur /ə/	o /o/
<u>Open</u>	e /ɛ/		a /a/

## Pronouns

Wutung has a simple system of personal pronouns with three persons (1st, 2nd and 3rd), two numbers (singular and plural) and gender in the third person singular pronouns. The same set of pronouns are used for object and subject.

<b>I</b>	<i>nie</i>	<b>we</b>	<i>netu</i>
<b>thou</b>	<i>me</i>	<b>you</b>	<i>etu</i>
<b>he</b>	<i>qey</i>	<b>they</b>	<i>tetu</i>
<b>she</b>	<i>cey</i>		

## External links

- Paradisec has an open access collection of Don Laycock's materials that includes Zimakani language materials (<http://catalog.paradisec.org.au/collections/DL2>)

## References

- Wutung (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/wut/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
- Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Wutung" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/wutu1244>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

3. Eberhard, David M.; Simons, Gary F.; Fennig, Charles D., eds. (2019). "Papua New Guinea languages" (<https://www.ethnologue.com/country/PG/languages>). *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (22nd ed.). Dallas: SIL International.
  4. United Nations in Papua New Guinea (2018). "Papua New Guinea Village Coordinates Lookup" (<https://data.humdata.org/dataset/village-coordinates-lookup>). *Humanitarian Data Exchange*. 1.31.9.
- Marmion, Doug (2010). *Topics in the Phonology and Morphology of Wutung*. Canberra: Australian National University.
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